

THE CONFEDERATE STATES NAVY AND A BRIEF HISTORY OF WHAT BECAME OF IT

Interesting Data Carefully Compiled from the Memoranda of John L. Porter, the Distinguished Chief Constructor of the Confederate States Navy.

By JOHN W. H. PORTER.
(Written for the Times.)

The following interesting and instructive article was prepared for the Times by Mr. John W. H. Porter, of Portsmouth, Va., chief constructor of the Confederate States Navy. The article contains much valuable historical information, and will doubtless be widely read. It gives a list of the vessels in commission in the Confederate States Navy; tells where and when most of them were built; what became of them; and gives brief data about their movements and service:

Alabama—Wooden steam chaser, 39 guns built at Liverpool in 1862, sailed from that port July 24th, 1862, and was sunk in action with the U. S. S. Kearsarge off Cherbourg June 19, 1864.

Atlanta—Formerly the merchant steamer *Finland*. Converted into an iron-clad ram, built at Savannah and mounted 4 guns. Got around in Wassaw Sound June 17, 1863, and was captured by the Federals.

Albemarle—Iron-clad, 2 guns. Built on the Roanoke river in 1864, sunk by a Federal torpedo boat the same year at Plymouth, N. C.

Appomattox—Formerly the tug *Empire*. Bought at Norfolk in 1861 and mounted two guns. Dismantled and abandoned in 1862.

Archer—Merchant schooner, captured by the Confederates off Long Island June 14, 1862, converted into a cruiser, and fitted out at Portsmouth. Recaptured by the Federals off Portland June 27, 1862, and crew transferred to the *Caleb Cushing*.

Arctic—Iron-plated floating battery at Wilmington. Mounted 3 guns and burned by the Confederates at the evacuation of that city in 1865.

Arkansas—Iron-clad, 10 guns. Launched at Memphis in 1862 and completed on the Yazoo river July 15, 1862. Her machinery became disabled near Baton Rouge in August of that year, and she was set on fire and abandoned by order of her commander.

Baltic—Iron-plated ram, three guns. Burned by the Confederates at the fall of Mobile, in 1865.

Beaufort—Iron hull tug-boat. Bought at New Bern in 1861 and armed with one gun. Burned by the Confederates at Richmond in 1865.

Blenville—Side-wheel river steamer. Bought at New Orleans in 1861, and mounted with six guns. Burned by Confederates on Lake Pontchartrain in 1862.

Black Warrior—Merchant schooner, armed to assist in the defense of Mobile City, February 18, 1862. Burned and deserted by her crew during the fight.

Bombshell—Formerly a Federal gun-boat. Sunk by Confederate batteries at Plymouth, April 18, 1864, raised by the Confederates and recaptured by the Federals in Albemarle Sound, May 5, 1864.

Caleb Cushing—United States revenue cutter, two guns. Captured by the Confederate schooner *Archer* in Portland harbor, June 27, 1862, and set on fire and abandoned to prevent recapture.

Calhoun—Small side-wheel river steamer. Bought at New Orleans, 1861, and burned by the Confederates after the fall of that city in 1862.

Carondelet—Side-wheel river steamer. Bought at New Orleans in 1861 and mounted with six guns. Burned on Lake Pontchartrain in 1862 to prevent capture.

Columbia—Iron clad, six guns. Built at Charleston, 1864. Caught on a sunken wreck there and broken in two by the falling tide.

Casswell—Wooden side-wheel tender. Burned by the Confederates at the fall of Wilmington, 1865.

Charleston—Iron clad, six guns. Built in 1862 at Charleston and destroyed by the Confederates at the evacuation of that city in 1865.

Chattahoochee—Wooden gun-boat, two guns. Burned by the Confederates on the Chattahoochee river at the close of the war.

Chlorra—Iron clad. Built at Charleston and burned by the Confederates at the evacuation of that city in 1865.

Chicamauga—Formerly the blockade-runner *Edith*. Bought at Wilmington in 1864, mounted with two guns and turned into a cruiser. She was burned by the Confederates at Wilmington in 1865.

Clarence—Merchant brig captured by the Florida, May 6, 1863, and armed with a 22-pounder boat-howitz. She was burned by her commander June 12, 1863, and her crew transferred to the *Tacony*.

Cotton—Side-wheel river steamer. Bought at New Orleans in 1861, and made into a gun-boat. Burned by her crew in 1864 to prevent capture.

Curlew—Side-wheel river steamer. Bought at Norfolk, 1861, mounted with two guns. Sunk in battle at Roanoke Island, February 7, 1862.

Drewry—Wooden tender, one gun. Built at Richmond. Disabled in action with Federal batteries at Trent's Reach, January 24, 1865, and abandoned.

Diana—Wooden gun-boat, five guns. Captured from the Federals, March 23, 1863, in Atchafalaya river and burned in Bayou Teche, April 12, 1863, to prevent recapture.

Edwards—Wooden tug, bought at Norfolk, 1861, and mounted with one gun. Her name was afterwards changed to the *Forrest*.

Ellis—Iron hull tug-boat. Bought at Norfolk in 1861, and mounted with one gun. Captured by the Federals at the battle of Elizabeth City, 1862.

Equator—Wooden tug-boat, one gun. Burned by Confederates at the fall of Wilmington in 1865.

Fanny—Iron hull propeller, 2 guns. Captured from the Federals October 1, 1861, and set on fire by Confederates at the battle of Elizabeth City, N. C., February 19, 1862.

Fire Fly—Wooden side-wheel river steamer. Used for a while at Savannah, and then permitted to go to wreck.

Florida—Originally the merchant steamer *Oreto*. Bought in 1867 at Liverpool for the Confederates and mounted with five guns. She was boarded by the U. S. S. *Wachusett* and captured in the harbor of Bahia, Brazil, October 7, 1864, while her captain and crew were ashore on liberty.

Forrest—Wooden tug-boat formerly the *Edwards*, bought at Norfolk in 1861, and mounted with two guns. She was disabled in battle at Roanoke Island, February 7, 1862, and was burned on the ways at Elizabeth City by the Confederates, February 19th.

Fredericksburg—Iron clad, four guns. Built at Richmond, 1863, and burned by the Confederates at the evacuation of that city, April, 1865.

Gaines—Side-wheel merchant steamer, mounted six guns. Sunk in battle of Mobile Bay, August 5th, 1864.

Germantown—Sailing sloop of war, 22 guns. Seized by Confederates at Gosport Navy Yard 1861, and burned at the evacuation of Norfolk.

Georgia—Iron-clad floating battery at Savannah. Destroyed by the Confederates at the fall of that city, in December, 1864.

George Page—Side-wheel river steamer, seized at Alexandria in 1861 and armed with two guns. Her name was afterwards changed to the *Richmond*. She was burned by the Confederates at Quantico in 1862.

Harriet Lane—Captured from the Federals at Georgetown, January 1st, 1862. Mounted eight guns. Her name was changed to the *Lavina* and she was converted into a blockade runner. She was in Havana harbor at the close of the war.

Hampton—Wooden gun-boat, two guns. Built at Norfolk 1862 and burned by the Confederates at the evacuation of Richmond, April, 1865.

Huntress—Side-wheel tug, bought at Charleston in 1863 and mounted two guns. She was later condemned and sold.

Huntsville—Iron-clad, four guns. Built at Mobile. She was burned by the Confederates at the fall of that city, in 1865.

Indian Chief—Receiving ship at Charleston. Burned at the evacuation of that city, in 1865.

Ivy—Side-wheel river steamer, bought at New Orleans in 1861, and mounted two guns. She was burned by the Confederates in Yazoo river in 1863 to prevent capture.

Jackson—Tug-boat, bought at Norfolk, 1861, mounted two guns. She was dismantled and sold in 1862.

Kate Bruce—Wooden schooner bought in 1861 to convert into a gun-boat, but before completion she was sunk as a blockade runner in the Chattahoochee river.

Lady Davis—Iron tug, bought at Charleston 1861, and mounted one gun. Her machinery was put in the *Palmetto State* and the vessel sold.

Lapwing—Merchant bark, captured by the Florida, March 23rd, 1863, armed with two boat-howitzers and name changed to *Oreto*. She was set on fire and burned by her crew June 20th, 1863.

Livingston—Side-wheel river steamer, bought at New Orleans, 1861, and mounted six guns. Burned by Confederates in Yazoo river, in 1863.

Louisiana—Iron-clad, built at New Orleans, 1862, and mounted ten guns. She was set on fire by order of her commander and burned after the fall of New Orleans, in 1862.

McRae—Wooden propeller, bought at New Orleans, 1861, and mounted six guns. She was sunk by the Confederates after the fall of that city, in 1862.

Macon—Wooden propeller, ten guns, built at Savannah, taken to Augusta after the fall of that city and held until the war ended.

Manassas—Iron-plated ram, built at New Orleans in 1861, mounted one gun; sunk by order of her commander at the battle of New Orleans, 1862.

Manassas—Schooner, formerly United States revenue-cutter; seized at New Bern, 1861, and name changed to *Manassas*. She was dismantled after a few months' service.

Maurepas—Side-wheel river steamer, bought at New Orleans, 1861, and mounted five guns; sunk by Confederates to obstruct White river in 1862.

Missouri—Center wheel iron-clad, eight guns; built at Shreveport, La., in 1864.

Mobile—Wooden tug, two guns; burned by Confederates in Yazoo river.

Morgan—Merchant steamer, bought at Mobile, 1861; mounted six guns. She was

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destroyed by Confederates at the fall of that city, in 1865.

Morning Light—Steamer, twelve guns, captured from the Federals off Sabine Pass, January 21, 1863.

Muscougee—Center-wheel iron-clad, eight guns; built at Columbus, Ga., and burned at the close of the war.

Namemond—Wooden gun-boat, two guns; built at Norfolk, 1862, and burned by the Confederates at Richmond, 1863.

Nashville—Side-wheel merchant steamer, seized at Charleston in 1861, and mounted eight guns; ran around in Ogeechee river in 1864, and was destroyed by shell from the blockading vessels.

Neuse—Iron-clad, two guns; built on the Neuse river, 1864, and burned by the Confederates in 1865 on the approach of Sherman's army.

North Carolina—Iron-clad, four guns; built at Wilmington, N. C., 1863; sprung a leak and sunk in Cape Fear river in September, 1864, at anchor.

Palmetto State—Iron-clad, four guns; built at Charleston, and burned by the Confederates at the evacuation of that city, in 1865.

Pamlico—Side-wheel river steamer; bought at New Orleans in 1861; burned by Confederates on Lake Pontchartrain, 1862, to avoid capture.

Patrick Henry—Side-wheel merchant steamer Yorktown; seized at Richmond, 1861; mounted ten guns; burned by Confederates at Richmond, 1863.

Plymouth—Sailing sloop of war; seized by the Confederates at the Gosport navy-yard, 1861; burned at the evacuation of Norfolk, 1862.

Polk—Side-wheel river steamer, mounted seven guns; burned by Confederates in Yazoo river in 1863, to avoid capture.

Phoenix—Iron-clad floating battery, at Mobile. Burned by the Confederates at the fall of that city in 1865.

Pontchartrain—Side-wheel river steamer, mounted 7 guns. Burned by Confederates in 1863 on the Arkansas river.

Queen of the West—Iron-protected ram. Captured from the Federals, February 14th, 1863, in Red river and sunk in battle in Atchafalaya river in April, 1863.

Raleigh—Iron-clad, 4 guns. Built at Wilmington in 1864 and wrecked on Wilmington bar, May 7th, 1864.

Rappahannock—Side-wheel river steamer, formerly the *Saint Nicholas*. Captured at Point Lookout June 29th, 1861; mounted 1 gun. Burned by the Confederates at Fredericksburg April, 1862.

Rappahannock—Cruiser, formerly the British gun-boat *Victoria*. Purchased at London in 1862 and taken to Calais, but on account of complications with the French Government she never put to sea, and was finally sold in 1864.

Resolute—Wooden gun-boat, 1 gun. Destroyed by Federal field battery at the fall of Savannah in 1864.

Richmond—Iron-clad, 4 guns. Launched at Gosport Navy Yard in 1862 and burned by Confederates at the evacuation of Richmond, April, 1865.

Roanoke—Iron tug, formerly the *Raleigh*. Bought in Norfolk in 1861 and mounted 1 gun. Burned at Richmond upon the evacuation of that city.

Savannah—Iron-clad, 4 guns. Built at Savannah and burned by the Confederates at the evacuation of that city in December, 1864.

Sampson—Side-wheel river steamer, 2 guns. Taken by the Confederates to Annapolis after the evacuation of Savannah, December, 1864.

Sea-Bird—Side-wheel river steamer. Bought at Norfolk in 1861 and armed with two guns. Sunk in battle at Elizabeth City, February 19, 1862.

Shenandoah—Cruiser, formerly the merchant steamer *Sea King*, 6 guns. Delivered to English authorities at Liverpool after the close of the war, November 6th, 1865.

Stonewall—Sea-going iron-clad ram, 3 guns, formerly the *Sphinx*. Purchased in Denmark in 1865 and name changed to *Stonewall*. She was acquired too late to be of service and was turned over to the Spanish authorities at Havana after the war ended.

Sumter—Cruiser, formerly the merchant steamer *Labana*, bought at New Orleans in 1861 and mounted with 5 guns. Her machinery gave out and she was sold at Charleston in 1863 by the Confederates.

Tacony—Marchant ship, captured by the *Clarence* June 12, 1863, and crew transferred to the *Archer*.

Tallahassee—Cruiser, formerly the blockade runner *Atlanta*. Bought at Wilmington and mounted 2 guns. Name afterwards changed to *Oreto*. Recaptured into a blockade runner, the "Chameleon," and taken to England.

Talmico—Side wheel, 2 guns. Accidentally sunk at Savannah in 1863.

Teaser—Wooden tug, two guns, bought at Richmond in 1861, and captured by the Federals in James river in 1862.

Tennessee—Iron-clad, six guns. Built at Mobile and captured in battle of Mobile Bay, August 5, 1864.

Thomas Jefferson—Side-wheel merchant steamer, formerly the *Jamstown*. Seized at Richmond in 1861 and mounted two guns. She was sunk by the Confederates May, 1862, at Drewry's Bluff to obstruct James river.

Torpedo—Wooden tug, 2 guns, burned by Confederates at Richmond.

Tuscaloosa—Iron-clad, four guns. Burned by Confederates at the fall of Mobile in 1865.

Tuscaloosa—Formerly the bark *Conrad*. Captured June 21, 1863, by the Alabama and armed with four boat howitzers. She was seized by the English authorities at Simon's Bay, South Africa, December 1863, upon the charge of violation of neutrality of the port. She was subsequently released, but the Confederates never again claimed her.

Tuscarora—Side-wheel river steamer, 2 guns. Burned accidentally at New Orleans.

with 2 guns. Sunk in battle at Elizabeth City, February 10th, 1862.

Selma—Side-wheel merchant steamer. Mounted 4 guns. Captured by the Federals at the battle of Mobile Bay, August 5th, 1864.

St. Mary—Side-wheel river steamer, 2 guns. Burned on Yazoo river.

Stono—Gun-boat, 7 guns; formerly the *Isaac Smith*. Captured from the Federals in Stono river, January 20th, 1863, and burned by the Confederates at the evacuation of Charleston in 1865.

Spray—Tug-boat, 2 guns. Sunk by the Confederates on St. Mary's river.

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Tuscarora—Side-wheel river steamer, 2 guns. Burned accidentally at New Orleans.

Virginia—Iron-clad, former the U. S. S. *Merrimack*, 9 guns. Seized by Confederates at Gosport Navy-yard, 1861, and converted into an iron-clad. Burned by her captain at the evacuation of Norfolk, in 1862.

Virginia Second—Iron-clad, guns. Built at Richmond in 1861, and burned by the Confederates at the evacuation of that city in 1865.

Velocity—Gun-boat, two guns. Captured from the Federals at Sabine Pass, January 21, 1863.

Uncle Ben—Tug-boat, seized at Wilmington in 1861, mounted one gun. Her machinery was taken out and put in the *North Carolina*, and hull sold.

United States—Old wooden frigate in ordinary at Gosport Navy-yard. Seized by Confederates in 1861, and used as a receiving ship. She was called sometimes the *Confederate States*.

Water Witch—Captured from the Federals in Chesapeake Sound, June 4, 1864. Burned at the fall of Savannah, December, 1864.

Webb—Wooden ram on the Mississippi and Red rivers. Burned by the Confederates after the close of the war.

Winslow—Side-wheel river steamer, formerly the *J. E. Coffey*. Bought at Norfolk in 1861 and mounted one gun. Wrecked on a sunken hulk outside of Hatteras, in 1861.

Yrkin—Wooden gun-boat. Built at Wilmington and burned by the Confederates at the fall of that city in 1865.

In addition to the foregoing, there were the following which were used temporarily as tenders and afterwards returned to their original owners, that did not carry permanent armament.

Superior, *Honolulu*, and *Kankakee* near Norfolk and the *Syracuse* at Richmond.

In the fall of 1861 the citizens of New Orleans fitted up a number of river boats as rams for local defense, and put them under command of Captain J. E. Johnston. Most of them were bravely fought and were sunk in battle, at Memphis and New Orleans. They were not attached to the Confederate States Navy.

They were the *Warrior*, *Stonewall*, *Jackson*, *Resolute*, *Denance*, *Beckwith*, *Van Horn*, *Price*, *Briggs*, *Lovell*, *Sumter*, *Beauregard*, *Jeff. Thompson*, *Little Rebel*, *Governor Moore*, *Quitman* and possibly three or four others.

There were in the Confederate States Navy at Richmond three torpedo launchers—the *Hornet*, *Scorpion* and *Wasp*. The *Wasp* was destroyed by the Federal batteries at Trent's Reach, in January, 1865, and the others were burned by the Confederates at the evacuation of Richmond, in April, 1865. There was also a torpedo launch at Charleston, with which Lieutenant Glassell attacked the iron-sides, and also the one with which Lieutenant Dixon, of the Twenty-first Alabama Regiment, sunk the United States ship *Housatonic*.

An Astonishing Law.

Not long ago we were very much surprised when told by a police officer that a man who shot at another without striking any person was not liable to prosecution for felonious assault, but merely for the misdemeanor of shooting.

It is estimated that Mr. W. K. Squires will get 30,000 railroad ties from the Conway tract on Potomac Creek, which he purchased last spring. Stafford Correspondent in Free Lance.

WEARY WILLIE A CHESTERFIELD

Well Organized and "Polished" Aggregation of Hobos Have Struck Richmond for Holidays.

There seems to be a well organized band of tramps spending the holidays in Richmond and vicinity, who have introduced new features in their profession, which have worked like charms on the unsuspecting public. Such honest-offered contests as there were, wanderers have bestowed upon the housewives and husbands of the community has seldom been seen. And in almost every case their Lord Chesterfield tactics have had the desired effect, and have been rewarded with a good portion of the Christmas dinners from many homes. On Christmas Eve, while a gentleman residing just outside the city was seated with his family around the fire of his sitting-room, the hired girl announced that a man having much the appearance of a tramp wished to speak with the gentleman of the house at the rear door. Not wishing to be disturbed by such visitors, the gentleman told the girl to let the tramp know he could not see him, and wished him to get off the place without further argument. The message was duly delivered to the weary wanderer, who, much to the amazement of the colored girl, stepped back, and after a profound bow, he assumed a most deferential attitude, and asked that the following message of the season's greetings be conveyed to the gentleman who had deeded him his presence.

"Say to the gentleman within," said the tramp, "that I regret deeply not seeing him, and that I wish him and his good wife a merry Christmas and a happy New Year."

The tramp insisted that this message be delivered at once, and said he would wait a reply on the kitchen steps. The girl lost no time, and the message not being delayed in transmission, the gentleman of the house, surrounded by his family, soon appeared in answer to the strange visitor's greeting. The tramp played his part to the end, and after finishing the turkey, oysters and ham placed before him, he did not slight the plum-pudding, which was forthcoming. He left the home wearing a smile of genuine satisfaction.

This same tramp, or another of the same band, played the same part at other homes.

Emporia Cotton Club. (Special Dispatch to the Times.)

EMPORIA, Va., Dec. 29.—The Emporia Cotton Club gave their Christmas dance last night at Tillan's Hall, and was one of the most brilliant affairs of the season. Among the visiting young ladies who attended were: Misses Estelle, of Norfolk; Guiney of Ashland, N. C.; Fagan, of Franklin; Turnbull, of Lawrenceville; Scott, of Farmville, and Davis, of Mecklenburg county. Quite a number of visiting gentlemen also attended.

Good music added much to the pleasure of the occasion, which was pronounced by all who were present as a most enjoyable evening.

Diphtheria Quarantine. (Special Dispatch to the Times.)

WOODSTOCK, Va., December 29.—The family of Mr. Lee Ryland, who resides about one and one-half miles south of Edinburg, Va., is quarantined, on account of diphtheria. One child, about twelve years of age, died last week, and four others are now confined to their beds with the same disease.

The Christmas service at the Lutheran Church here on last Sunday was an unusually delightful and enjoyable one. The church was tastefully decorated with potted plants, ferns, and evergreens. At the Presbyterian Church the Sunday-school rendered a Christmas service entitled "The Dawn of Peace." On Christmas morning the Reformed Church held its usual 6 o'clock services which were well rendered, and at night the Sunday-school rendered a highly-appreciated service.

On Friday night, December 28th, the Shenandoah Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, of this place, entertained Shenandoah Camp, Confederate Veterans, and United Confederate Veterans, at "Till's Hall," the home of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Milley. A large number of veterans and daughters were present.

Transitory.

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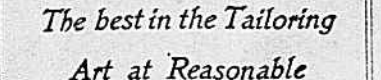
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